AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing a high-bulk density detergent composition having a bulk density of 650 g/L or more, comprising the steps of:

(A) blending a liquid acid precursor of an anionic surfactant with a water-soluble, alkali inorganic substance in an amount equal to or exceeding an amount necessary for neutralizing the liquid acid precursor, in a substantial absence of an alkali metal aluminosilicate, thereby neutralizing the liquid acid precursor; and

(B) adding an inorganic powder and a liquid binder to a neutralization mixture in step (A) after a point of initiation of formation of coarse grains of the neutralization mixture obtained during a course of a neutralization process in step (a) and mixing a resulting mixture.

2. **(Original)** The process according to claim 1, wherein the addition of the inorganic powder is initiated in step (B) at any time between a point when the liquid acid precursor of an anionic surfactant is added in an amount exceeding a weight ratio of 0.25 to the water-soluble, alkali inorganic substance and a point up to 5 minutes from termination of addition of an entire amount of the liquid acid precursor.

3. **(Original)** The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the average particle size of the inorganic powder is 30 μm or less.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the inorganic powder is an alkali metal aluminosilicate.

5. **(Original)** The process according to claim 4, wherein the addition of the alkali metal aluminosilicate is initiated in step (B) at any time within 5 minutes from termination of addition of an entire amount of the liquid acid precursor of an anionic surfactant.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali metal aluminosilicate is contained in step (A) in an amount of 5% by weight or less.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the neutralization step is carried out in step (A) while blowing a gas.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a surface-modifying step.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing a high-bulk density detergent composition having a bulk density of 650 g/L or more, comprising the steps of:

(a) blending a liquid acid precursor of an anionic surfactant with a water-soluble, alkali inorganic substance in an amount equal to or exceeding an amount necessary for neutralizing the liquid acid precursor, in a substantial absence of an alkali metal aluminosilicate, thereby neutralizing the liquid acid precursor; and

(b) adding an alkali metal aluminosilicate and a liquid binder to a neutralization mixture obtained in step (a) and mixing a resulting mixture.

11. **(Original)** The process according to claim 10, wherein the addition of the alkali metal aluminosilicate is initiated in step (b) at any time within 5 minutes from termination of addition of an entire amount of the liquid acid precursor of an anionic surfactant.

12. **(Original)** The process according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the alkali metal aluminosilicate is contained in step (a) in an amount of 5% by weight or less.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the neutralization step is carried out in step (a) while blowing a gas.

14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 10 or 11, further comprising a surface-modifying step.